

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 140903Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3655
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USAREUR HEIDELBERG
USAFE RAMSTEIN
USCINCEUR STUTTGART

UNCLAS DUSSELDORF 1303

MIL ADDEES FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB GW
SUBJ: STRIKE VOTE SET FOR NRW BREWERIES

1. AFTER SIX BARGAINING ROUNDS NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW COVERING AGREEMENT (MANTELTARIF) FOR THE NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIAN (NRW) BREWERIES BROKE DOWN ON AUGUST 9, 1978. THE FOOD, BEVERAGES AND RESTAURANT WORKERS UNION (GEWERKSCHAFT NAHRUNG-GENUSS-GASTSTAETTEN) DECIDED TO HOLD A STRIKE VOTE ON AUGUST 21 AND 22, 1978. AN EVENTUAL STRIKE WOULD COVER 16,000 PERSONS IN THE NEW BREWING AND MALTING INDUSTRIES.

2. THE UNION'S DEMANDS COVERED AN INCREASED 13TH MONTHLY
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INCOME, LONGER PAID ANNUAL LEAVE, A 32 HOURS WORK WEEK FOR EMPLOYEES ABOVE 60 AND 35 HOURS FOR THOSE ABOVE 55. THE UNION CLAIMS THAT ITS DEMANDS ARE DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN JOBS. 1100 JOBS WERE ABOLISHED THROUGH RATIONALIZATION IN 1977.

3. THE EMPLOYERS REJECTED THE UNION DEMANDS ON THE

GROUND THAT THEIR IMPLEMENTATION COULD INCREASE PERSONNEL COSTS BY 20 PERCENT AND ENTAIL BEER PRICE INCREASES WHICH COULD HARDLY BE REALIZED IN VIEW OF PRESENT OVER-CAPACITIES (ESTIMATED AT 20 PERCENT IN THE FRG) IN THE GERMAN BREWING INDUSTRY. SALES AND PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF BEER HAVE DECLINED OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS.

4. COMMENT: NRW IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT BEER BREWING CENTERS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, BUT A STRIKE WOULD NOT DEPRIVE NRW BEERDRINKERS OF THEIR FAVORITE BEVERAGE. BECAUSE OF EXCESS CAPACITIES IN THE FRG INDUSTRY, BEER COULD EASILY BE BROUGHT IN FROM OUTSIDE NRW. IT IS MERELY A PROBLEM OF TRANSPORTATION.DUX

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: ELAB, GE
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